DC

35

FEAR STATE

CATWOMAN™

V
VAKUEVA
BELLAIRE

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

A new hero of the seven seas for a new generation!

AQUAMAN
THE BECOMING

Written by
BRANDON THOMAS

Art by
DIEGO OLORTEGUI

A 6-issue series
September

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ALLEYTOWN, GOTHAM.
THE NEST.

I'M SORRY...

YOU?!

YOU REALIZE THIS WHOLE... *CIRCUS*... IT'S ALL FOR YOU?

HOW'D YOU EVEN GET IN HERE UNSEEN?

THIS IS STILL *MY* HOUSE, *LIEUTENANT.*

=SIGH=

HADLEY CAME HERE LOOKING FOR YOU, Y'KNOW?

HE FIGURED IT OUT BEFORE ANY OF US. I TRIED TELLING HIM TO STAY OUT OF IT.

THAT BULLET WAS MEANT FOR *YOU.**

IT WAS MEANT FOR MY *SISTER.*

I WAS MEANT TO WATCH AND PERHAPS *DIE* TRYING TO STOP IT.

EVEN AT THE END HE WAS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU...

*SEE LAST ISSUE. --JESSICA

"...WHEN HADLEY GAVE ME A WAY TO FIGURE OUT WHERE FATHER VALLEY WAS SHOOTING FROM.

"BUT I WAS TOO LATE. I GOT THERE JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE BOMB GO OFF.

"WE SEARCHED THE PLACE AFTER. FOUND THE SNIPER RIG AND EXPLOSIVE CHARGES.

"BUT NO TRACES OF *KARL VALLEY.*"

"HE'LL BE BACK...WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS."

AND YOUR SISTER?

SHE'S GONE...

I PUT HER ON A BOAT OUT OF THE DOCKS.

"SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF GOTHAM AND ALLEYTOWN."

HE CARED FOR YOU, YOU KNOW? HADLEY...

HE DIDN'T DESERVE WHAT HAPPENED...

THAT BULLET...WAS MEANT FOR ME.

I LOVE YOU, SELINA...I ALWAYS WILL. BUT I... HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF NOW. FOR A WHILE...YOU UNDERSTAND?

"I'M NOT COMING BACK.

"IT BREAKS MY HEART TO SAY THIS..."

"...BUT LOVING YOU IS LIKE LOVING THE SUN, SELINA.

"MOST OF US CAN'T GET CLOSE WITHOUT BURNING UP."

"THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS BEGINS.

"THE INSINUATION OF FEAR, WITH A DEMONSTRATION OF POWER.

"THE SYSTEM CHOOSES TO INFLICT ITS POWER UPON THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY POWERLESS.

"BECAUSE IT IS EASY AND DEVASTATING.

FEAR STATE 1: STREET THUNDER

RAM V WRITER NINA VAKUEVA ARTIST
JORDIE BELLAIRE COLORIST TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERER
YANICK PAQUETTE & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN COVER
JENNY FRISON VARIANT COVER BEN MEARES ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JESSICA CHEN EDITOR BEN ABERNATHY GROUP EDITOR

"BECAUSE IT IS A SPECTACLE MEANT FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT YET DISENFRANCHISED.

"THE GREAT MASSES LOOKING OUT THEIR WINDOWS AT THOSE ON THE FRINGES.

"WATCHING AS GREAT AND TERRIBLE VIOLENCE IS INFLICTED UPON THE WANDERERS, THE HOMELESS, ORPHANS, THIEVES, ADDICTS.

"THE GREAT MACHINE GRINDS THEM ALL BENEATH ITS FEET.

"AND THOSE WHO WATCH IN FEAR THINK TO THEMSELVES, 'AT LEAST I AM NO THIEF. AT LEAST I AM NO ADDICT. AT LEAST I AM SAFE HERE, WITHIN THE SYSTEM WHERE I NEED HAVE NO FEAR.'

"AND THUS THROUGH THE SPECTACLE OF FEAR, THE ILLUSION OF SAFETY IS CREATED.

"PEOPLE ARE TOO BUSY TO LOOK UP TO THE STARS FOR FEAR OF WHAT IS HAPPENING BENEATH THEIR FEET."

ALL IT TAKES IS WILL.

THE WILL TO TAKE POWER THAT IS NOT YOURS. WE KNOW THIS WELL. WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE--

--LIVED OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM AND YET TAKEN POWER FROM IT.

AND THERE, TOO, PEOPLE LOOKED UPON US WITH FEAR. **WE** WERE THE VILLAINS OF ***THEIR*** STORY.

YOU ALL CAME TO ME BECAUSE YOU FELT THE NEED TO CHANGE. TO BE ***DIFFERENT.***

WELL, ***THIS*** IS OUR TIME.

"NOW IS OUR CHANCE TO ***ATONE.***"

CROC

CLAYFACE

KNOCKOUT

FIREFLY

CHESHIRE

"THIS PLACE, ALLEYTOWN, IS A SMALL PLACE IN A BIG CITY.

"BUT IN ITS MAGNANIMITY AND HUMAN CHAOS, IT HAS BECOME THE LAST BASTION OF FREEDOM IN THIS FEAR STATE.

"IF WE CAN HELP THE CATWOMAN KEEP IT THAT WAY...

"...MAYBE WE CAN HOPE THAT THERE IS A PLACE YET THAT WE CAN COME BACK TO...A PLACE FOR US TO CALL HOME."

THE NEST.

THIS USED TO BE MY HOME.

HADLEY *DIED* TRYING TO WARN ME. MAGGIE'S *GONE.*

LOOK AT IT, *LEO.* IT'S ALL BURNING OUT THERE.

WHAT AM I THE QUEEN OF?

I'M STILL HERE.

YOU KNOW, AMIGA, TIMES LIKE THIS ARE WHEN PEOPLE *NEED* A QUEEN.

THEY'RE OUT THERE FIGHTING BECAUSE YOU SHOWED THEM THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE MUCH...

...BUT THEY DON'T HAVE TO TRADE THEIR DIGNITY AWAY.

I DON'T KNOW THAT I DID ALL THAT, LEO.

MAYBE I'M JUST A THIEF WHO DID IT BECAUSE I FELT LIKE I HAD SOMETHING TO PROVE.

AND LOOK AT HOW *THAT'S* TURNED OUT.

...WHAT THE HELL?

*PEOPLE OF GOTHAM CITY, THIS IS **ORACLE** ONCE AGAIN, REPEATING MY MESSAGE TO ALL OF YOU.*

I KNOW YOU'RE AFRAID RIGHT NOW...BUT THE TRUTH IS YOU AREN'T NEARLY FRIGHTENED ENOUGH.

THE MAYOR IS IN HIDING. SCARECROW IS ON THE LOOSE.

*FEAR IS SPREADING IN THIS CITY, AND YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THE AIR YOU'RE **BREATHING** IS FILLED WITH HIS POISON.*

I WISH I COULD TELL YOU THAT BATMAN WAS COMING TO SAVE THE DAY... BUT HE CAN'T ANYMORE.

BATMAN IS DEAD.

I KNOW THERE WERE RUMORS ON THE RADIO. B-BUT... ORACLE?

HE'S NOT DEAD... TH-THEY'RE WRONG.

...HE ALWAYS COMES BACK.

ALWAYS.

LINA... GO.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US... GO.

"BE WHERE YOU NEED TO BE.

"ALLEYTOWN WILL HOLD UNTIL YOU COME BACK."

HOW MANY TIMES? HOW MANY TIMES HAS THE BATMAN COME BACK FROM THE DEAD?

IT'S NOT HIM I'M WORRIED ABOUT.

HANG IN THERE, BRUCE...

QWAKQWAKQWAKQWAKQWAK

Incoming call

Message

Decline

Accept

WHAT'S WELL-DRESSED, NEARLY EXTINCT, AND FOREVER ON ICE?

=HARRRMMMF= HAHAHA!

A LITTLE BIRD TELLS ME THE *BIG BAD BAT* IS DEAD.

YOU KNOW HE LOVES PROVING THAT ONE WRONG, DON'T YOU, *COBBLEPOT?*

=HMPH= YES... THAT MAY VERY WELL BE. BUT THIS IS OUR WINDOW.

EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR HANDS FULL, ESPECIALLY THE BAT-LINGS, AND THE CITY IS FALLING APART.

OUR RATHER COMPLEX MACHINATIONS HAVE PERFECTLY PLACED US TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY WITH BOTH HANDS.

LIVE

BATMAN DEAD?

IF *THE MAGISTRATE* WINS, AND IT LOOKS LIKELY THEY WILL...WHOEVER CONTROLS ALLEYTOWN, ITS DOCKS, AND ITS SMUGGLING ROUTES STANDS TO MAKE A PRETTY PENNY.

POUNDS, PENNIES, DOLLARS, AND DIMES. DO YOU EVER CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE, *OSWALD?*

WHY, *EDWARD!* IF ANYTHING, I CARE TOO MUCH!

I CARE ABOUT *YOU!* AND OUR NEED FOR PAYBACK. AFTER ALL, THE CATWOMAN SWINDLED US BOTH OUT OF OUR FAIR SHARE.*

*INDEED SHE DID! SEE CATWOMAN #25 FOR THE HEIST-TASTIC DETAILS. --JESSICA

SOMEHOW, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO TOOK A BULLET FOR IT.**

A REGRETTABLE INCONVENIENCE. BUT IT GOT YOU CLOSE, DIDN'T IT?

**SEE CATWOMAN #29! --JESS

I *DO* LOVE PAYBACK. BUT THERE MIGHT BE A BIGGER OPPORTUNITY AT PLAY HERE.

WE HAVE THE KEY INGREDIENT TO SAINT'S LITTLE DRUG RIGHT HERE IN ALLEYTOWN.

IVY?

IF WE CAN GET HER, I CAN ENGINEER THE DRUG. YOU CAN CONTROL ALLEYTOWN.

AND WE'D BOTH HAVE THE ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE THAT IS LIKELY TO SINK **SIMON SAINT.**

"WHAT IS SHE DOING THERE, IN ALLEYTOWN?"

"I HAVE NO IDEA. THEY KEEP HER OUT OF SIGHT FOR THE MOST PART. IN A PRIVATE ROOM. SOMEWHERE DEEP UNDER THE BUILDING."

"AND I'VE HEARD WHISPERS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING QUITE *ODD* ABOUT HER."

"LIKE SHE'S BECOME EVEN *STRANGER*, SOMEHOW."

mmmrrrrrrvv

mmmm

SKREE

SELINA KYLE, YOU ARE WANTED FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. GIVE UP PEACEFULLY OR WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO USE DEADLY FORCE.

THWIP

SMSHH!

BIP BIP

00:00

VROOM

THIS WAY! I SEE HER!

WE HAVE HER CORNERED!

SO YOU'VE GOT ME CORNERED?

THIS IS ALLEYTOWN, HON. THERE'S A SURPRISE WAITING AROUND *EVERY* ONE.

YOU WERE LEAVING, WEREN'T YOU?

I...ONLY BECAUSE I HAVE TO FIND HIM AND MAKE SURE HE'S--

YOU WERE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME. YOU SHOULDN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING ON THE RADIO.*

IT'S *FAKE.* THAT'S WHY I CAME LOOKING FOR YOU.

WHAT'S FAKE?

*SEE FEAR STATE: ALPHA, IN STORES NOW! --JESS

THE BROADCAST? ORACLE, I THINK SHE CALLS HERSELF?

COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU.

I FOUND IT AS I WAS SCANNING FREQUENCIES TO HOOK UP ANOTHER ACCESS POINT.

THEY FAKED THE ANNOUNCEMENT, SELINA. THEY KNEW IT WOULD CREATE FEAR...BRING YOU OUT INTO THE OPEN.

THEY NEED YOU OUT SO THEY CAN SHUT DOWN ALLEYTOWN, YOU SEE?

...IF YOU [illegible] HEAR ME OUT THERE. WHOEVER'S [illegible] THIS RADIO NETWORK...YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT RUNNING.

THE BATMAN IS NOT DEAD...I REPEAT, **NOT DEAD.** THE ORACLE [illegible] COMPROMISED. DISREGARD ALL COMMS [illegible] NOT ON THIS CHANNEL.

THIS NETWORK [illegible] LAST FREE AND OPEN [illegible] COMMUNICATION LEFT.

WHOEVER YOU ARE...[illegible] IN ALLEYTOWN. KNOW THAT THEY [illegible] TO SHUT YOU DOWN.

I AM [illegible] TRACKING A LARGE CONTINGENT [illegible] YOUR WAY.

STAY SAFE. STAY STRONG.

KEEP THIS CHANNEL OPEN AT ALL COSTS.

HELP [illegible] ON THE WAY.

NEXT:
A GARDENER,
A CLOWN, AND A WITCH
WALK INTO ALLEYTOWN...

Every hero starts somewhere!

WONDER WOMAN
THE ADVENTURES OF
YOUNG DIANA

TM & © DC.

Written by
JORDIE BELLAIRE

Art by
PAULINA GANUCHEAU

October

An 80-Page
Prestige
Format Special

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

TEEN TITANS BEAST BOY loves RAVEN

INTERVIEW WITH KAMI GARCIA

Writer Kami Garcia and artist Gabriel Picolo wowed audiences with the bestselling, critically acclaimed DC young adult graphic novel *Teen Titans: Raven* in 2019, then continued their bold reinvention of the Titans mythos the following year with *Teen Titans: Beast Boy.* So what's next? *Teen Titans: Beast Boy Loves Raven*, naturally, bringing the two characters together for the first time.

This series has meant so much to readers—what emotions are involved in bringing the readers into this new and exciting part of the story?

In *Raven* and *Beast Boy*, readers watched Gar and Raven discover their powers for the first time. They both felt confused and alone, and so different from everyone else. But now they'll find each other, and they won't feel so alone.

It's right there in the title—Beast Boy loves Raven. How do you describe their relationship? What makes them a good couple?

Beast Boy and Raven meet for the first time at the beginning of the book, so I don't want to give anything away. I think they make a great couple because they're both trying to figure out who they are and how to deal with the fact that they're different. But finding each other helps them realize that those differences are also what makes them special.

How much of a role do Slade Wilson and Trigon play in this story?

Slade and Trigon are both antagonists throughout the series. Slade has a human motive and Trigon is very much a supernatural antagonist. But Trigon's role is also complex because he's Raven's demon-father, which makes dealing with him more personal.

How has your partnership with Gabriel Picolo evolved over the years?

Working with Gabriel is a dream. We've had the same vision for the characters from the beginning. We both want them to be relatable, flawed teens—to seem like real people.

DON'T MISS
TEEN TITANS: BEAST BOY LOVES RAVEN
ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER!

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"